

SENATE BILL No. 158

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 10-17.

Synopsis: Various veterans' matters. Requires the Indiana veterans' affairs commission to submit an annual report to the governor and the legislative council on matters concerning the welfare of veterans. Allows for the mayor of a city to employ a service officer to serve the veterans of the city. Adds the president of the Indiana Veterans Service Officers' Association to the Indiana veterans' affairs commission. Makes an annual and continuing appropriation from the state general fund to pay the salary of the Hoosier women veterans coordinator.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Banks

January 5, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs & The Military.



PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 158

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013,
2 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 4. The commission shall do acts necessary or
4 reasonably incident to the fulfillment of the purposes of this chapter,
5 including the following:

6 (1) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer this chapter.

7 (2) Advise the veterans' state service officer in problems
8 concerning the welfare of veterans.

9 (3) Determine general administrative policies within the
10 department.

11 (4) Establish standards for certification of county and city service
12 officers.

13 (5) Establish and administer a written examination for renewal of
14 the certification of county and city service officers.

15 **(6) Submit, not later than December 31 each year, an annual**
16 **report to the legislative council in an electronic format under**
17 **IC 5-14-6 and to the governor concerning the welfare of**



veterans.

SECTION 2. IC 10-17-1-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.105-2014, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 9. (a) A county executive:

(1) shall designate and may:

(A) appoint a county service officer for a four (4) year term; or

(B) employ a county service officer; and

(2) may employ service officer assistants; to serve the veterans of the county.

(b) The ~~fiscal body of a city may provide for the employment by the~~ mayor of a city **may employ a** service officer and **may employ** service officer assistants to serve the veterans of the city.

(c) If the remuneration and expenses of a county or city service officer are paid from the funds of the county or city employing the service officer, the service officer shall:

(1) have the same qualifications and be subject to the same rules as the director, assistant director, and state service officers of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs; and

(2) serve under the supervision of the director of veterans' affairs.

A service officer assistant must have the same qualifications as an employee described in section 11(b) of this chapter. A rule contrary to this subsection is void.

(d) County and city fiscal bodies may appropriate funds necessary for the purposes described in this section.

SECTION 3. IC 10-17-13-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.4-2014, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 5. The commission consists of the following members:

(1) ~~Seven (7)~~ **Six (6)** members appointed by the governor, **as provided in this subdivision.** The governor shall consider the following when making appointments under this subdivision:

(A) Membership in a veterans association established under IC 10-18-6.

(B) Service in the armed forces of the United States (as defined in IC 5-9-4-3) or the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4).

(C) Experience in education, including higher education, vocational education, or adult education.

(D) Experience in investment banking or finance.

The governor shall designate one (1) member appointed under this subdivision to serve as chairperson of the commission.

(2) The president of the Indiana Veterans Service Officers'



Association, appointed by the governor.

~~(2)~~ (3) The director of veterans' affairs appointed under IC 10-17-1-5 or the director's designee.

~~(3)~~ (4) The adjutant general of the military department of the state appointed under IC 10-16-2-6 or the adjutant general's designee.

~~(4)~~ (5) Four (4) members of the general assembly appointed as follows:

(A) Two (2) members of the senate, one (1) from each political party, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate with advice from the minority leader of the senate.

(B) Two (2) members of the house of representatives, one (1) from each political party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives with advice from the minority leader of the house of representatives.

Members appointed under this subdivision are nonvoting, advisory members and must serve on a standing committee of the senate or house of representatives that has subject matter jurisdiction over military and veterans affairs.

SECTION 4. IC 10-17-14-9, AS ADDED BY P.L.105-2014, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 9. (a) The department may set the salary of the coordinator using only the available resources of the department.

(b) **There is annually appropriated to the commission from the state general fund an amount sufficient to pay the salary of the coordinator.**

